

AED Frequently Asked Questions

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What is an AED?

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device that analyzes the victim's condition and, if warranted, delivers an electric shock to the heart to reverse sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). **Why are AEDs necessary?** When someone collapses from SCA, immediate CPR and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED) are essential for any chance of recovery. These devices are failsafe and will not cause injury to the user, nor will they deliver a shock if none is needed. For patients ventricular fibrillation, or "VF", studies show that if early defibrillation is provided within the first minute, the odds are 90% that the victim's life can be saved. After that, the rate of survival drops 10% with every minute. As many as 30%-50% of SCA victims would likely survive if CPR and AEDs were used within five minutes of collapse.

The American Heart Association supports implementing the chain of survival to rescue people who suffer a cardiac arrest in the community. The adult chain of survival consists of:

- Early Recognition of the Emergency and Activation of Emergency Response System (phone 9-1-1 immediately)
- Early CPR
- Early Defibrillation
- Early Advanced Care

Why purchase an AED?

- The first ten minutes following a sudden cardiac event are critical. In fact, there is a 10% decrease in survival for every minute of delay. CPR alone may not restart the heart in the event of SCA, so it is critical to shock the heart with an automated external defibrillator within the first five minutes of SCA—and increase the chances for survival. (SCAA)

- SCA is extremely deadly, with a mortality rate of approximately 90%. (SCAA)
- Many EMS squads have an average response time of 8-12 minutes and cannot reach a victim of SCA in time.
- Organizations that deploy AEDs are at lower liability risk than those that do not.

Why purchase through HeartSafe?

HeartSafe Moore County has established policies, procedures, and plans for effective use of AEDs and will assist with training, maintenance, and long-term monitoring of the device.

AEDs in Schools?

- A host of **undetected cardiac problems** within any sizeable school population.
- **Myopathies** – an estimated 1 in every 3000 people.
- **Long QT Syndrome** is a lethal heart condition.
- **Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome** is a fast heart rhythm.
- **Commodio Cordis** results in a heart that is too small for the body.
- Even schools for young children have many adults present every day. Teachers, custodians, and other staff can be trained to use AEDs.
- Schools provide a natural placement option for public access defibrillation (PAD) programs.
- Schools serve as central gathering points within the community. Whether it is parents attending a school event or a community meeting, schools are a central location for many people.
- There is educational value in placing AEDs in schools. Primary level teachers can make a difference in the lives of their students.

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